

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7-9, 11, 12, and 16-19 have been amended. Claims 3-6 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action states that claims 6-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (claims 3, 4, and 5). Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 3, 4, 5, and 6.

The Office Action objected to claim 17 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but found that it would be allowable if rewritten to overcome a 35 USC 112 rejection. Applicants have amended claim 17 as suggested in the Office Action.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the findings of allowability.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §112

The Office Action rejected claim 17 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 17 to clarify the limitation of the claimed invention.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 13-15, and 18-19 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Jensen (US PG Pub. 2002/0107697).

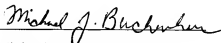
Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 6 through 12, therefore claim 1 is allowable as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 2 is dependent on an allowable claim, therefore it too is allowable. Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled, thereby mooted their rejection. Claims 13-15 are dependent on claim 1 which is now allowable; therefore claims 13-15 are allowable because they depend on an allowable base claim. Claims 18 and 19 are service and article manufacture counterparts of claim 1 and have been amended to recite the same allowable subject matter as claim 1; therefore the rejection to claims 18 and 19 should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103

The Office Action rejected claim 5 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen (US PG Pub. 2002/0107697) in view of Tanigawa (US PG Pub. 2003/0074255). Claim 5 has been cancelled, thereby rendering its rejection moot.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims and thanks the Examiner for the findings of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,


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